



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 15 November 2007

Current Nationwide



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- The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that the pilot of the freighter that struck the Bay Bridge in California last week and spilled 58,000 gallons of fuel told his attorney and NTSB investigators that failures in the ship's radar helped lead to the incident. The pilot said he was forced to rely on what turned out to be the captain's faulty interpretation of an electronic chart display with which the pilot was not familiar. He also blamed poor communication between himself and the ship's officers. (See items [13](#))
- According to an *Agence France Presse* report, veterinary authorities in England confirmed Tuesday an outbreak of a potentially lethal strain of the H5N1 bird flu virus in Suffolk, northeast of London eastern England. Officials said that they were doing their utmost to ensure the disease did not spread, ordering the slaughter of more than 6,000 poultry at the site, and insuring the anti-viral drug Tamiflu had been given to all those involved in the poultry cull. (See item [22](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 14, Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Pipeline leaks small amount of oil in northern Minnesota.** A small oil spill in a pipeline northwest of Bemidji, Minnesota,

forced two large crude oil pipelines to close for several hours, a spokesman for the pipeline company said today. One line operated by Enbridge Inc. of Calgary, Alberta, which pumps 450,000 barrels of oil a day from Alberta to its hub in Superior, Wisconsin, was stilled for about 18 hours after the spill from a “pinhole leak” was detected Tuesday morning by one of its workers, said a company spokesman. The spill amounted to no more than two barrels, and prompted the closure of another pipeline nearby for a shorter period as the company worked to determine which of the two lines had leaked, according to the spokesman. Repairs were made and both lines are now operating. All contaminated soil was cleaned up and hauled to a disposal site.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/535/story/1550130.html>

2. *November 13, Azom.com* – **Hydrogen fuel cells become more viable thanks to new hydrogen storage materials.** Scientists at the University of Virginia have discovered a new class of hydrogen storage materials that could make the storage and transportation of energy much more efficient — and affordable — through higher-performing hydrogen fuel cells. In the quest for alternative fuels, University of Virginia’s new materials potentially could provide a highly affordable solution to energy storage and transportation problems with a wide variety of applications. They absorb a much higher percentage of hydrogen than predecessor materials, while exhibiting faster kinetics at room temperature and much lower pressures, and are inexpensive and simple to produce.

Source: <http://www.azom.com/news.asp?newsID=10498>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *November 13, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Experts to inspect site where WWI chemical agent detected.** Technical experts in Colorado will start sampling and inspecting soil dug from a trench at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal where a chemical developed for World War I was detected. Federal, state and local public health and environment officials approved plans Tuesday to investigate the source of the lewisite, a chemical weapon found October 31 by Army contractors. The discovery led to the closure of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, created on parts of the 17,000-acre site, once a classified chemical munitions plant 10 miles northeast of downtown Denver. Lewisite, like mustard gas, is a blistering agent. It penetrates clothing and even rubber and can be fatal if absorbed through the skin. Experts will inspect the site starting Wednesday to determine if the lewisite detected in the air came from a leaking, buried container or was in the soil from past disposal of liquids. They will spray a solution on the soil to suppress dust and neutralize any remaining lewisite.

Source:

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/14589012/detail.html?rss=den&psp=news>

4. *November 13, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **Georgia Gulf plant fire under investigation.** A fire at the Georgia Gulf Corp. plant produced a huge cloud of smoke and sprinkled soot on nearby residences. No one was injured in Saturday’s fire, which the company said originated in the plant’s refrigeration unit. A Georgia Gulf spokesman

said the flames did not cause any damage outside of the affected unit. The cause of the blaze is under investigation. “We’re still in the early stages of investigation,” the spokesman said. “We brought it down very systematically. It’s a very rare occurrence, and I wouldn’t categorize it as an explosion yet. There was noise and a fire, but it could have been caused by a number of things. It could have been an explosion or materials catching fire.”

Source: <http://www.leesvilledailyleader.com/articles/2007/11/13/news/news9.txt>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *November 14, Dothan Eagle* – (Alabama) **Farley Nuclear coming under closer scrutiny.** While one nuclear reactor unit at Farley Nuclear Plant is already receiving extra scrutiny, recent safety concerns with the plant’s other reactor means it will be getting the same closer look. Recent breaker failures at Farley’s Unit 1 has placed the reactor in a safety category that opens it up to additional inspections from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the NRC announced Tuesday. The NRC announced last month that a valve failure connected with Farley’s Unit 2 had already placed that reactor under additional scrutiny. The additional action from the NRC stems from separate breaker failures dealing with the component cooling water system on Unit 1. The NRC determined the failures had “low to moderate” safety significance. While both units have always been inspected systematically by the NRC, the issues surrounding both reactors mean they will be subject to additional inspections.

Source: http://www.dothaneagle.com/gulfcoasteast/dea/local_news.apx.-content-articles-DEA-2007-11-14-0008.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *November 14, Prime Newswire* – (National) **Northrop Grumman awarded contract for LITENING Precision Targeting System Data Links.** Northrop Grumman Corporation has received a contract to develop and deliver the latest generation of data links for its LITENING Advanced Targeting (AT) pod from the U.S. Air Force Materiel Command's Aeronautical Systems Center, as the executive procurement agency for the Air Combat Command, Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard, U.S. Marine Corps and coalition forces. Under the terms of the \$18 million contract, Northrop Grumman’s Defensive Systems Division will deliver in excess of 201 new data links to be fielded on a variety of aircraft beginning in September 2008 and continuing through January 2010. The new data link, known as Plug & Play II, is the first to feature multiple frequencies while retaining compatibility with the ROVER portable receiving station used by both U.S. and coalition ground forces. In addition, Plug & Play II provides a new high capacity digital recording capability for both video and metadata collected during a mission and can include two-way data transfer functionality with an onboard server to support network operations.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/pz/071114/131368.html>

7. *November 13, Associated Press* – (National) **Raytheon wins a contract to help improve submarine communications.** Raytheon has been awarded a \$5.2 million contract to help the U.S. Navy improve submarine communications. Under the deal, the defense contractor will continue to develop technology that allows immediate contact with a submarine anywhere in the world, regardless of depth or speed. Submarines traditionally initiate communications or adhere to previously established communication schedules to make contact with commanders. Raytheon says Deep Siren is critical technology for the Navy’s first generation of Undersea FORCENet communications equipment.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2007/11/13/raytheon_wins_a_contract_to_help_improve_submarine_communications/

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *November 14, The Daily Advertiser* – (National) **Guaranteed loans for a fee are usually scams.** The Better Business Bureau has experienced a recent surge in advance fee loan scams. According to reports, consumers call a toll-free phone number listed in an ad. The person who answers “takes” their credit application over the phone or says they will send paperwork to complete. They are told they have been approved for a loan (from \$5,000 to \$100,000), and will receive the money once they pay a fee. The loan applicant is instructed to wire the money or send a money order. They never receive the loan and cannot recover their money. Advance fee schemers commonly use a U.S. address (a P.O. Box or a mail drop), but direct consumers to send the “fee” to a location in Canada. The U.S. address turns out to be phony or non-existent. The bureau encourages consumers to start their search at www.bbb.org or contact the Better Business Bureau for tips on selecting a trustworthy credit counseling organization.

Source:

<http://www.theadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071114/BUSINESS/711140315/1046>

9. *November 14, The Fay Observer* – (National) **E-mail scam targets Observer Credit Union.** The Fayetteville Observer Credit Union has reported a phishing scam involving e-mails that attempt to collect people’s credit card numbers. Many of the e-mails have been sent to people who have no connection to Fayetteville Publishing Co., said the credit union manager. The e-mail looks authentic, she said. It says credit union customers need to be aware of a phishing scam that has compromised their credit cards. The e-mail tells cardholders that they need to reactivate the cards by calling a “toll-free” number, which has an Iowa area code. The manager’s name is at the bottom of the e-mail. She said the credit union has alerted its members. Anyone who gets such an e-mail should contact their bank or credit union, she said.

Source: <http://www.fayobserver.com/article?id=277686>

10. *November 14, WHAM 13 Rochester* – (New York) **Don’t fall for fundraising scam.**

Residents are being warning about a fundraising scam making its way through the Rochester area in New York. The Hillside Family of agencies said it has received numerous calls reporting door-to-door soliciting on behalf of the agency. Hillside said it does not do that kind of solicitation.

Source: http://www.13wham.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=a1978744-ead0-4f32-ba63-a851f67b6649

11. *November 13, KAUZ 6* – (National) **Scammers using Shriners Hospital as their front.**

There is a scam circulating through the country involving Shriners Hospital. According to a report, a customer received a letter saying she won a Publisher's Clearing House and Reader's Digest contest and a \$50,000 prize. Included was a check, allegedly written out by Shriners Hospital for \$3,000 (to pay for tax and administrative expenses). All she needed to do was deposit the check and call the number on the letter for further instructions. Shriners' corporate director said they are aware of the scam and are handling it. Shriners Hospital is asking anyone who receives a letter to call their attorney's office at (813)281-8152.

Source: <http://www.kauz.com/home/ticker/11259411.html>

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Transportation Sector

12. *November 14, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **Bill takes aim at gaps in airport security.**

An Illinois congressman Tuesday proposed legislation under which only U.S. citizens would be allowed to hold airport jobs that involve access to planes and baggage. In addition, responsibility for issuing airport employee security badges would be shifted from local authorities to the federal government. The official also called for the creation of "federal security zones" that would become the jurisdiction of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) at all U.S. airports. The agency would take over background checks on people seeking airport security credentials as well as verify their identity and legal status. But a host of problems at the TSA -- screeners failing to catch decoy bombs in undercover tests, low screener morale and high absenteeism -- raise questions about whether the federal security agency would do a better job protecting airports and passengers from terrorists and criminals than the existing security regimen. The proposed switch comes after federal immigration officials last week arrested more than 30 O'Hare Airport workers in Chicago using fraudulent airport identification cards. Many of those arrested were working in the country illegally.

Source: http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/transportation/chi-security_14nov14,1,7745188.story?ctrack=1&cset=true

13. *November 14, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Pilot says Cosco Busan's captain directed vessel into bridge.** The pilot of the freighter that struck the Bay Bridge in California last week, fouling the bay with 58,000 gallons of fuel, told his attorney and investigators for the National Transportation Safety Board, which is looking into the crash, that the *Cosco Busan's* radar "conked out" twice, first before departure and again as the ship was near the lighthouse on Yerba Buena Island. The

pilot said he was forced to rely on an electronic chart display with which he was not familiar. Subsequently, he asked the captain of the *Cosco Busan* to point on the display to the center of the bridge span between the Delta and Echo towers on the western side of the Bay Bridge. “The pilot had to go along with what the master indicated on the electronic chart display was the center of the span,” the attorney said. “That turned out to be the tower instead.” He added that problems also arose in “bridge management,” the communication between the pilot who had years of experience on the bay, and the ship’s officers who had never navigated the bay in the *Cosco Busan*. All were supposed to work together and exchange information on how to successfully navigate the harbor.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/11/14/MNC5TBQ9R.DTL>

14. *November 14, Florida Today* – (Florida) **Tanker crash jams Beachline for 10 hours.** A tanker carrying 8,800 gallons of gasoline heading to Melbourne, Florida rolled over Tuesday on an entrance ramp to Interstate 95, sending its driver to the hospital and dozens of emergency workers to the scene to clean up the hazardous fuel leaking from the truck. The ramp connecting the eastbound Beachline Expressway to southbound I-95 was closed for more than 10 hours as Brevard County hazardous materials crews in suits and respirators transferred the fuel from the disabled tanker to another tanker brought in by the company. The tanker was leaking at a rate of 1 to 2 gallons a minute when fire-rescue workers arrived with foam and other cleaning equipment to contain the leaking fuel, according to the fire-rescue spokesman.
Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071114/NEWS01/711140328&template=news0305>
15. *November 13, Associated Press* – (International) **Jet makes emergency landing in Ecuador.** An American Airlines jetliner flying from Miami to Peru with 252 passengers aboard made an emergency landing in Ecuador on Tuesday after the pilot smelled smoke in the cockpit, an official said. An American Airlines sales manager in Ecuador told the *Associated Press* that it was a false alarm. No injuries were reported.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21774851/>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *November 14, The Argus* – (California) **Powder found in courthouse mail.** A mysterious white powder discovered in a piece of mail sent to the Fremont Hall of Justice in California on November 13 is being investigated by state officials at a Berkeley lab to determine if it is anthrax, a local firefighter said. It remained unclear that evening what the substance was, but Fremont fire officials were required by law to send a sample to a special lab because a local hazardous materials unit could not rule it out as anthrax, the fire battalion chief said. The building was not evacuated during incident, but the heating, ventilation and cooling system was turned off to minimize the chance of the substance being spread elsewhere.
Source: http://origin.insidebayarea.com/argus/localnews/ci_7458372

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *November 14, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Disease shuts hatchery; 60,000 trout destroyed.** Utah State wildlife officials have shut down the Springville Fish Hatchery and destroyed 60,000 trout after detecting whirling disease in one of two buildings at the facility. It is the second time since 2005 that the trout malady that causes deformations, neurological damage and, eventually, death to trout and salmon has been found at the Springville Hatchery. Since whirling disease is of no harm to humans who eat the infected fish, the state gave away 90,000 pounds of infected trout to the public after the outbreak in 2005. The fish culture supervisor for the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) said Springville will be taken out of production until a new water supply is obtained. The 60,000 rainbow trout were being grown to stock the state's urban fisheries along the Wasatch Front next spring. Other hatcheries have reserve fish to make up the difference, and anglers will not notice a difference, said a DWR official. The state runs 10 fish production hatcheries and stocks more than 12 million fish each year.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_7456690

18. *November 14, Associated Press* – (California) **Cal. governor orders public health officials to determine safety of seafood affected by oil spill.** California's governor temporarily suspended all fishing in areas affected by the San Francisco oil spill. While this will delay the start of the highly-anticipated crab season, it was concerned fishermen who requested the delay. The governor has also ordered public health officials to investigate the possibility of sickness resulting from eating seafood harvested from areas affected by the spills.

Source: <http://www.kxmc.com/News/180682.asp>

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Water Sector

19. *November 14, Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Harford council rejects extension of water lines.** In Maryland, the Harford County Council voted against a resolution that would extend public water lines to a neighborhood where wells at nine of the 84 homes are contaminated with trichloroethylene, or TCE, a volatile organic compound. Lower levels of the industrial solvent were detected in about two dozen other wells, officials said. The Maryland Department of the Environment has installed filtration systems on the nine problematic wells and is monitoring the others periodically. The county has \$2.2 million in federal and state grants to extend water lines to the community. If the county does not use the grant this year, the money will have to be returned.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/harford/bal-md.ha.water14nov14,0,3933598.story>

20. *November 13, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Whatcom County, WA, residents urged to boil their tap water.** The residents served by the Pole Road Water

Association's water system in Whatcom County, Washington have been urged to boil their tap water or drink bottled water because E. coli bacteria were found in one of two routine water samples. The state Department of Health issued the precautionary health advisory on November 13.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/6420ap_wa_whatcom_e_coli.html

21. *November 13, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Legislators to vote on water use plan in January.** Two legislative representatives from Gwinnett, Georgia, said on November 13 that a consensus on a statewide water management plan is likely to emerge before a January vote. An appointed panel has been hashing out policy proposals to regulate water use statewide. The Georgia Water Council's plan will be presented to the Legislature in January for a vote. The plan calls for Georgia to study how much water is flowing through its rivers and find ways to allocate water use to different areas of the state. One potential problem is that the plan has no assurances that it will be adequately funded. The research in the draft proposal is projected to cost about \$36 million over three years.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2007/11/13/water_1114_web.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *November 14, Agence France Presse* – (International) **Outbreak of lethal bird flu confirmed in Britain.** Veterinary authorities confirmed an outbreak of a potentially lethal Asian strain of H5N1 bird flu in eastern England on Tuesday. More than 6,000 poultry were ordered to be slaughtered at the site in Suffolk, northeast of London, where an exclusion zone was imposed on Monday after the suspected outbreak was found. Officials said that they were doing their utmost to ensure the disease did not spread and that the anti-viral drug Tamiflu had been given to all those involved in the poultry cull. The similarities between the British and European strains suggested the turkeys could have caught the virus from a wild bird through contact on a farm lake, but an official said all potential sources of the virus would be investigated. In the February bird flu outbreak some 159,000 turkeys were killed as a precaution at a plant near Holton in Suffolk, prompting some countries to impose import bans on British poultry. An official report said in that case it was most likely the virus reached the flock via imported turkey meat from Hungary. Britain's first case of H5N1 was detected in a dead swan in eastern Scotland in April 2006.

Source:

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=071114023105.u1i08v90&show_article=1

23. *November 14, Gazette.net* – (Maryland) **Health care leaders seek \$59M to ease nursing shortage.** Nurse vacancies in Maryland reached a high of 15.6 percent in 2001 before falling due to more recruiting and training programs, according to a survey by the Maryland Hospital Association. But the vacancy rate increased to 13 percent in 2006 from 10 percent in 2005. Without any action, the state faces a nursing shortfall of 10,000

by 2016, the president of the association said. In light of this, Maryland health care leaders last week called for more money for nursing teachers, education programs and classrooms to help fill what they say is a critical shortage in nurses. The plan would cost about \$34 million the first year and \$25 million the following year. After an initial investment of public and private funds, the plan would pay for itself through additional nursing students and savings from a multimillion-dollar fund that goes to personnel agencies to provide nurses to cover vacancies. The plan calls for an increase of 1,800 first-year nursing students beginning in 2009 and 360 additional faculty members. Source: http://www.gazette.net/stories/111407/busimlo183832_32374.shtml

Government Facilities Sector

24. *November 14, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **School closed on account of mercury spill.** A barometer fell off a wall in a high school in Columbus, Ohio, spilling some mercury. When this was discovered, and before any students arrived, classes were cancelled and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was called to the scene. The EPA has deemed the spill a minor one, and the school plans to reopen as normal tomorrow. Source: <http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=7358475>

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *November 14, WBBM Chicago* – (National) **Feds resurrect plan to connect urban doctors, rural patients.** Federal plans to link urban doctors with patients in rural areas and Indian reservations have been resurrected by the head of the Federal Communications Commission. Speaking in Chicago, the FCC chairman outlined the \$400,000 Rural Health Care pilot program which he says will link 6,000 hospitals, clinics and research facilities in 43 states. This is actually the second try for the same result. An earlier effort to link rural hospitals with urban specialists failed because the hospitals could not afford the expensive broadband links needed to transmit medical information like x-rays and MRIs. He told medical information specialists meeting in Chicago that the network will be useful should there be a coordinated terrorist attack covering scattered sites across the country. He says rural patients sometimes receive substandard care because their doctors may not have the specialized training available at high-volume teaching hospitals. The \$400 million in federal funding will allow rural hospitals to form networks which can then connect to second-generation systems called Internet 2 and LambdaRail. It will cover 43 states and three U.S. territories. Source: <http://www.wbbm780.com/Feds-Resurrect-Plan-To-Connect-Urban-Doctors--Rura/1211601>
26. *November 14, Clovis News Journal* – (New Mexico) **Mall hosting emergency exercise.** Local emergency responders were conducting an exercise at North Plains Mall this morning to simulate a mass casualty incident, according to Clovis, New Mexico's fire chief. He said the exercise was sprung on responders this morning to put them through

the paces of responding to a large scale incident. “(We wanted) to catch everybody a little bit off guard so it’s a little bit more realistic,” he said. The exercise was expected to conclude around 10:30 a.m., he said. “Everything is simulated, it’s just an exercise,” he said, stressing there is no need for public concern.

Source:

http://www.cnjonline.com/news/exercise_23827_article.html/westerman_emergency.html

27. *November 13, WPTZ-TV New York* – (International) **Firefighters held up at border trying to reach fire.** Firefighters from Quebec said they were held up at the Rouses Point, New York border crossing while trying to provide mutual aid to firefighters battling flames at the Anchorage Inn Sunday. Lacolle and St. Paul fire officials said several members of their squad didn’t have proper photo identification and were held up for close to 15 minutes while trying to reach the fire. Fire officials also said border agents inspected some of the fire trucks. Clinton County fire officials said they called Customs and Border Protection to let them know firefighters would be crossing from Canada, but the crews were still held up. Fire officials said its common practice to call in crews from out of the country, especially in Rouses Point where some Canadian crews are closer than some American fire departments. Border officials said while they recognize the need for emergency crews to get to the scene of emergencies, they have a primary mission of protecting the border and need to make sure everyone crossing the border is fine to do so. A spokesman for Border and Customs Protection also said the firefighters were processed in under nine minutes, not 15.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21771694/>

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Information Technology

28. *November 14, IDG News Service* – (National) **Researcher: Half a million database servers have no firewall.** Think your database server is safe? You may want to double-check. According to a security researcher, there are nearly half a million database servers exposed on the Internet, without firewall protection. The researcher looked at just over 1 million randomly generated Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, checking them to see if he could access them on the IP ports reserved for Microsoft SQL Server or Oracle’s database. He found 157 SQL servers and 53 Oracle servers. Litchfield then relied on known estimates of the number of systems on the Internet to arrive at his conclusion: “There are approximately 368,000 Microsoft SQL Servers... and about 124,000 Oracle database servers directly accessible on the Internet,” he wrote in his report, due to be made public next week. This is not the first time that the researcher, managing director of NGSSoftware, has conducted this type of research. Two years ago, he released his first Database Exposure Survey, estimating that there were about 350,000 Microsoft and Oracle databases exposed. This 2007 version of the Database Exposure Survey is set to be published Monday on his Databasesecurity.com Web site. IDG News was given a preliminary copy of the findings. With no firewall, databases are exposed to hackers, putting corporate data at risk. He said that, given the amount of press generated by corporate data breaches over the past two years, it is amazing to find

that there are more databases exposed than ever before.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/11/14/Half-million-database-servers-have-no-firewall_1.html

29. *November 13, Computerworld* – (National) **Microsoft patches URI bug, ancient DNS flaw.** Microsoft Corp. today released two security bulletins that fixed a pair of flaws in Windows, including a vulnerability that had been the root of a months-long debate over patching responsibility. One of the updates was rated critical, Microsoft's highest threat ranking, while the other was pegged as important, the next-lowest notch in the company's four-step scoring system. MS07-061 patched the Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) protocol handler bug in Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 that Microsoft admitted was its job to fix only after months of denying that a vulnerability existed in its software. In a security advisory posted October 11, Microsoft owned up to the flaw. The vulnerability has been exploited in the wild for weeks, most recently by a wave of attacks using rigged PDF files. The other bulletin issued today, dubbed MS07-062, patches a DNS cache poisoning vulnerability in Windows 2000 SP4, and Windows Server 2003 SP1 and SP2.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9046743&intsrc=hm_list

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

30. *November 14, WBBM Chicago* – (National) **Feds resurrect plan to connect urban doctors, rural patients.** Federal plans to link urban doctors with patients in rural areas and Indian reservations have been resurrected by the head of the Federal Communications Commission. Speaking in Chicago, the FCC chairman outlined the \$400,000 Rural Health Care pilot program which he says will link 6,000 hospitals, clinics and research facilities in 43 states. This is actually the second try for the same result. An earlier effort to link rural hospitals with urban specialists failed because the hospitals could not afford the expensive broadband links needed to transmit medical information like x-rays and MRIs. He told medical information specialists meeting in Chicago that the network will be useful should there be a coordinated terrorist attack covering scattered sites across the country. He says rural patients sometimes receive substandard care because their doctors may not have the specialized training available at high-volume teaching hospitals. The \$400 million in federal funding will allow rural

hospitals to form networks which can then connect to second-generation systems called Internet 2 and LambdaRail. It will cover 43 states and three U.S. territories.

Source: <http://www.wbbm780.com/Feds-Resurrect-Plan-To-Connect-Urban-Doctors--Rura/1211601>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

31. *November 14, Beacon Journal* – (Ohio) **Underground blaze darkens downtown.** An underground fire Tuesday afternoon blacked out much of the central business district in Akron, Ohio. It took until evening for FirstEnergy Corp. to restore limited power to downtown buildings left in the dark. The outage began about 3 p.m., when FirstEnergy shut off power to about 300 downtown customers -- mostly businesses -- because of a fire that was discovered about 1:20 p.m. in an underground electrical vault. The Akron Fire Department evacuated buildings near the stadium, and Akron police directed traffic at several intersections where signals were out. A FirstEnergy spokeswoman said Tuesday night that the fire damaged two circuits. Limited power was restored to all the affected customers by shifting them to an undamaged circuit. However, she said, that circuit cannot supply adequate power for those customers' daytime activities, adding that she did not know how long it would take to repair the damaged circuits.

Source: <http://www.ohio.com/news/11262176.html?page=1&c=y>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

32. *November 14, USA Today* – (District of Columbia) **Private donations sought for National Mall.** The National Mall needs \$350 million in repairs and maintenance. On November 15, the secretary of the Interior, the park service, and the non-profit Trust for the National Mall will launch a public-private partnership to restore "America's Front Yard." The campaign is part of a larger effort announced by President Bush last year to reduce a \$5 billion maintenance backlog in the national park system. The Centennial Initiative aims to raise \$1 billion in private donations to match federal funds to revitalize the park system for its 100th anniversary in 2016. The National Mall attracts 25 million visitors a year — more than Yosemite, the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone parks combined, according to the park service.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-11-13-nationalmall_N.htm

33. *November 14, Associated Press* – (Alabama) **Vandals deface confederate war monument.** Alabama's Confederate War Monument on the north side of the state Capitol grounds was recently vandalized. State Capitol Police said someone smeared black paint on soldier statues, while numbers and letters were painted on other stone figures. It is unclear how much it will cost to clean up the damaged monument.

Source: <http://www.nbc13.com/gulfcoastwest/vtm/news.apx.-content-articles-VTM-2007-11-14-0004.html>

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Dams Sector

34. *November 14, Tuscaloosa News* – (Alabama) **City says flaw at dam appears harmless.**

There is an approximately 24 feet by 12 feet bulge on the Lake Nicol dam in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, but the city engineer said at the City Council's Projects Committee on November 13 that the bulge does not seem to have impacted the dam's integrity. The city had the bulge surveyed and will check it monthly to make sure it does not change. "We think that it has been there for several years and nobody noticed it until now," the engineer said. "At this time we don't see any leakage. There's no indication that there are any problems."

Source:

<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/article/20071114/NEWS/71113069/1007/NEWS02>

35. *November 13, NBC13 Birmingham* – (Alabama) **Alabama only state not inspecting dams.** Currently, there are about 2,000 documented unregulated dams in Alabama.

Although federal guidelines require utility dams to be inspected on a regular basis, these constitute a minority in Alabama. Presently, less than five percent of the state's dams are regulated. Alabama is the only state in the country without a state-wide inspection program. "There's no requirement in the state of Alabama for dam owners to report even basic information on their dams. So we don't know where they are, we don't know how many there are exactly and how well they're maintained," an official with the Alabama's Office of Water Resources, the state agency most responsible for monitoring Alabama's dams, points out. The official said the Office of Water Resources helped introduce legislation four years ago to establish inspections for dams, but the bill failed. New legislation will be presented in January, which would fund a comprehensive study of every single dam in Alabama. Once the Office of Water Resources can accurately demonstrate the risk with a complete inventory, they improve their chance of winning support for a state-wide inspection program.

Source: <http://www.nbc13.com/gulfcoastwest/vtm/news.apx.-content-articles-VTM-2007-11-13-0010.html>

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